CLAIMS OF VATICAN CITY FOR LOSSES AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II

June 1, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. Gordon, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10766]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10766) to authorize the payment of compensation for certain losses and damages caused by United States Armed Forces during World War II, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows: Page 1, line 4, strike out "\$1,523,810.98" and insert "\$964,199.35". Page 1, line 11, strike out "\$1,523,810.98" and insert "\$964,199.35".

H. R. 10766 was introduced by the majority leader of the House, Hon. John W. McCormack, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs on April 24, 1956. A similar bill, H. R. 10767, was introduced by the minority leader, Hon. Joseph W. Martin, on the same date and was likewise referred to the committee. The committee met in executive session on May 23, and ordered H. R. 10766 reported favorably with the amendments noted.

In the course of hostilities against German armed forces during World War II the papal domain Castel Gandolfo was accidently damaged on February 2, February 10, May 31, and June 4, 1944, by bombs dropped from United States planes during attacks upon military targets in close proximity thereto. The United States Army Claims Service has determined through a survey of the damage that a reasonable assessment, based upon the costs of labor and materials as of April 1945, and calculated according to the then prevailing exchange rate of 100 lire to the dollar, would be \$964,199.35. The committee has for this reason reduced the sum requested from \$1,523,810.98 to \$964,199.35.